



**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology



Exoplanet Exploration Program

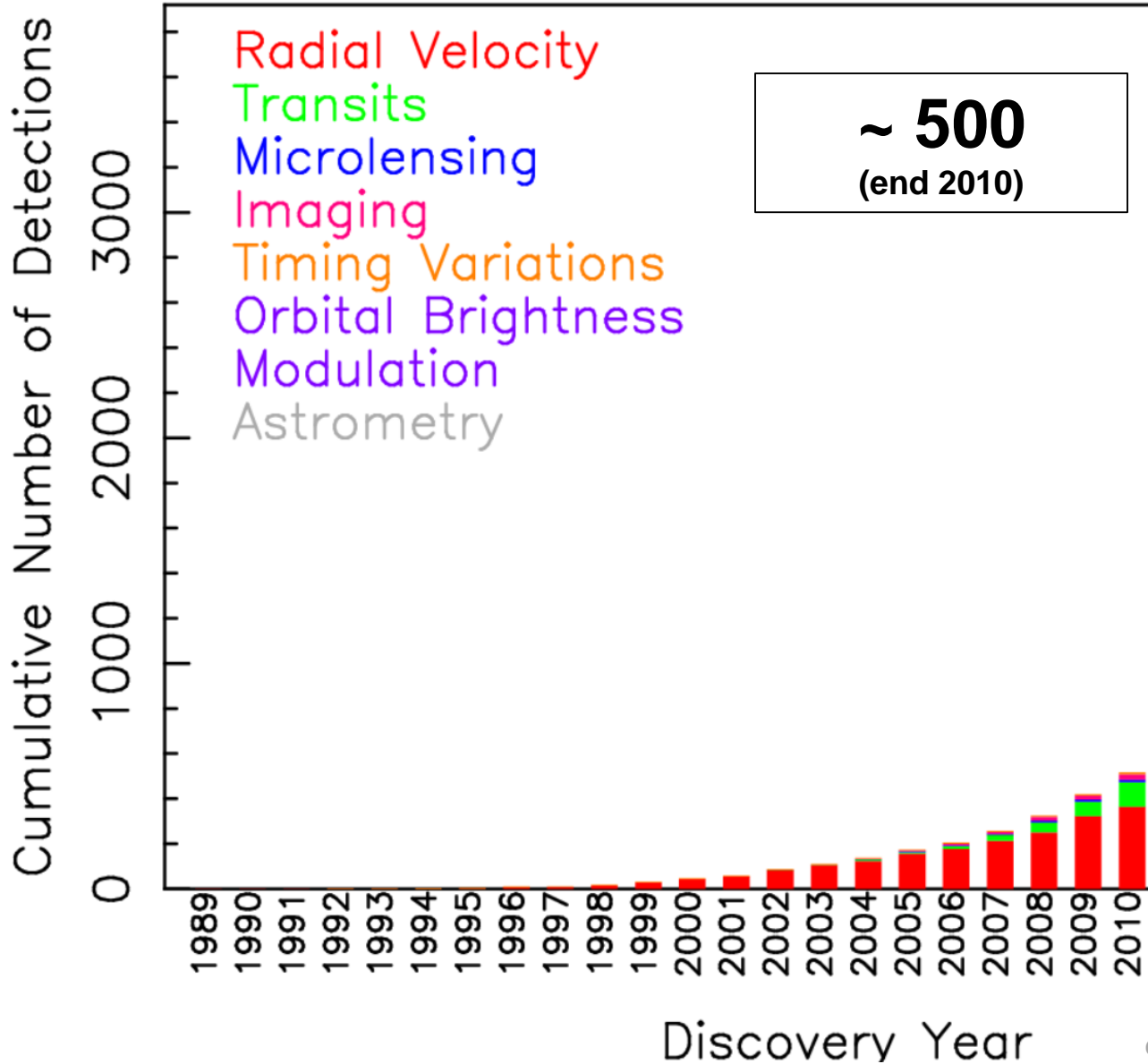
# What's New in Exoplanet Technology?

**Nick Siegler**  
**Chief Technologist**  
**Exoplanet Exploration Program**  
**Jet Propulsion Laboratory/California Institute of Technology**

**Bay Area Exoplanets Meeting**  
**7 September 2018**

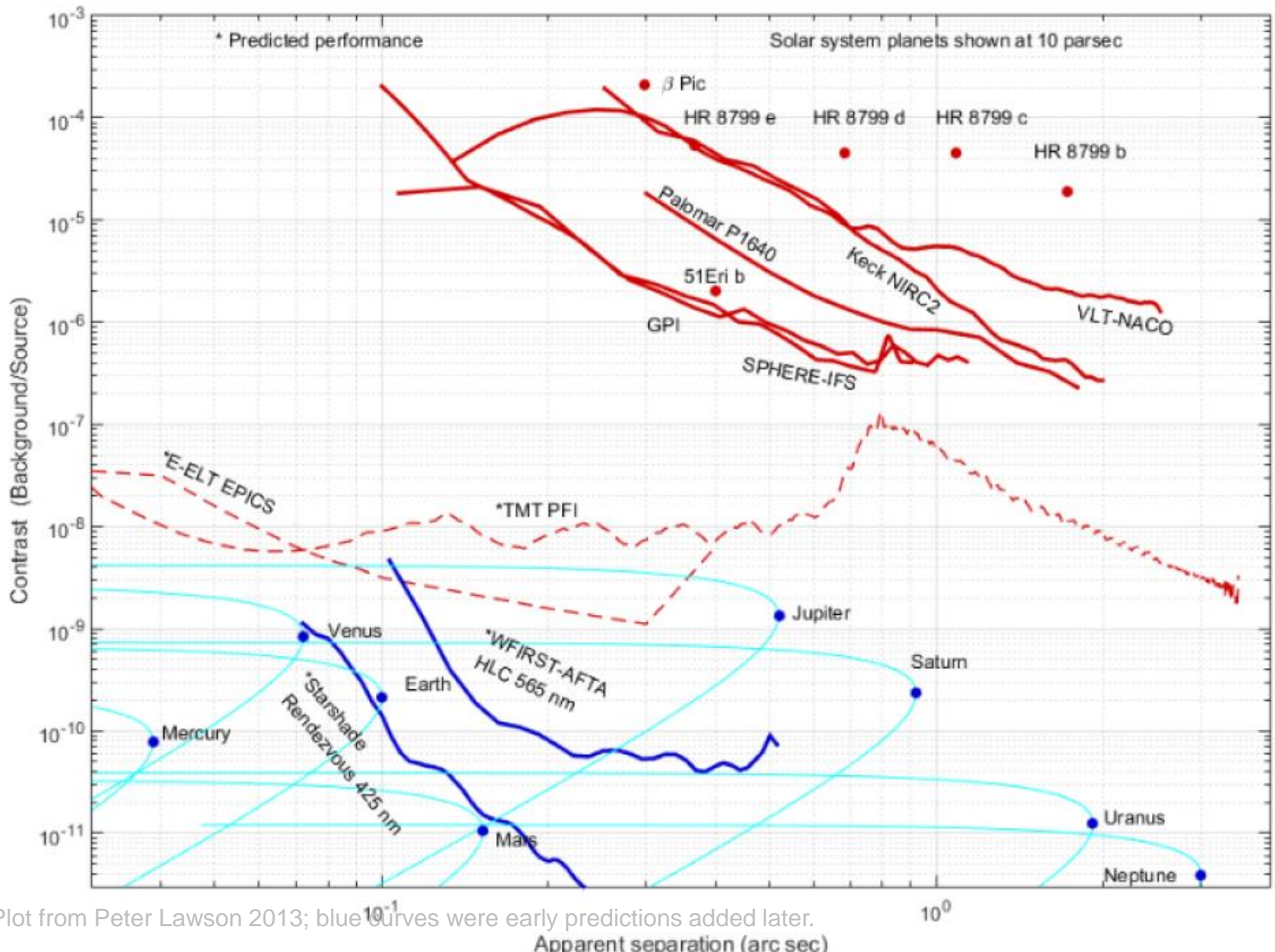
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# Contrast vs Separation

Figure from 2013



Plot from Peter Lawson 2013; blue curves were early predictions added later.

# Coronagraph State-of-the-Art in 2009

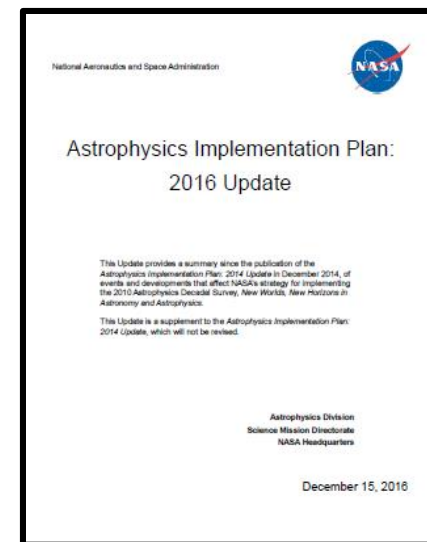
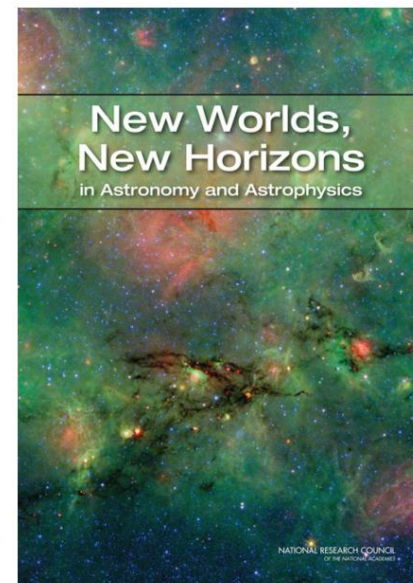
## Lab Demonstrations

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Hybrid Lyot</u> (linear mask)	<u>PIAA</u>	<u>Vortex</u>	<u>Visible Nuller</u>
Raw contrast (at IWA)	$1.2 \times 10^{-10}$	$2 \times 10^{-7}$	$10^{-8}$	$10^{-8}$
Bandwidth	2%	mono	mono	10nm/630nm
Working Angle	4 - 10 $\lambda/D$	1.65 - 4.4 $\lambda/D$	2.5 – 12 $\lambda/D$	2 – 4 $\lambda/D$
Reference	<a href="#">Trauger and Traub (2007) Nature</a>	<a href="#">TDEM-09 whitepaper (Guyon)</a>	<a href="#">TDEM-10 whitepaper (Serabyn)</a>	<a href="#">Lyon et al (2009) SPIE paper</a>

# 2010 Decadal Survey Recommendations

## ... and NASA Response

Decadal Survey Recommendation	NASA Actions
Large-scale 1. WFIRST	In Phase A, launch in mid-2020s (see Section 4)
Large-Scale 2. Augmentation to Explorer Program	Executing 4 Announcements of Opportunity (AOs) per decade (see Section 5)
Large-Scale 3. LISA	Partnering on ESA's space-based gravitational wave observatory (see Section 6.1)
Large-Scale 4. IXO	Partnering on ESA's Athena X-ray observatory (see Section 6.2)
Medium-Scale 1. New Worlds Technology Development Program	WFIRST coronagraph; starshade and coronagraph technology development; Doppler spectrograph on WIYN telescope; exozodiacal dust survey with LBTI (see Section 7.1)
Medium-Scale 2. Inflation Probe Technology Development Program	Multiple balloon-borne investigations plus SAT investments (see Section 7.2)
Small-Scale. Research Program Augmentations	R&A as of FY2016 up 20% from FY2010; increase not targeted except TCAN (see Section 7.3)
Small-Scale. Intermediate Technology Development Augmentation	Initiated Strategic Astrophysics Technology program; focused on identified strategic missions
Small-Scale. SPICA (U.S. contribution)	Not supported as a strategic contribution; candidate for Explorer Mission of Opportunity



**Table 1.** Recommended space activities of the 2010 Decadal Survey supported by the FY 2016 NASA Appropriation, the FY 2017 President's Budget Request, and its notional out year planning budget.

## APD Implementation Plan (2012, 2014, 2016)



# 2010 Decadal Survey Recommendation

## Medium Scale Category

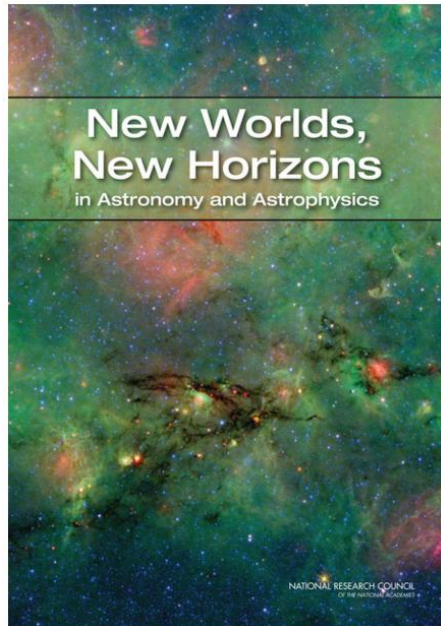
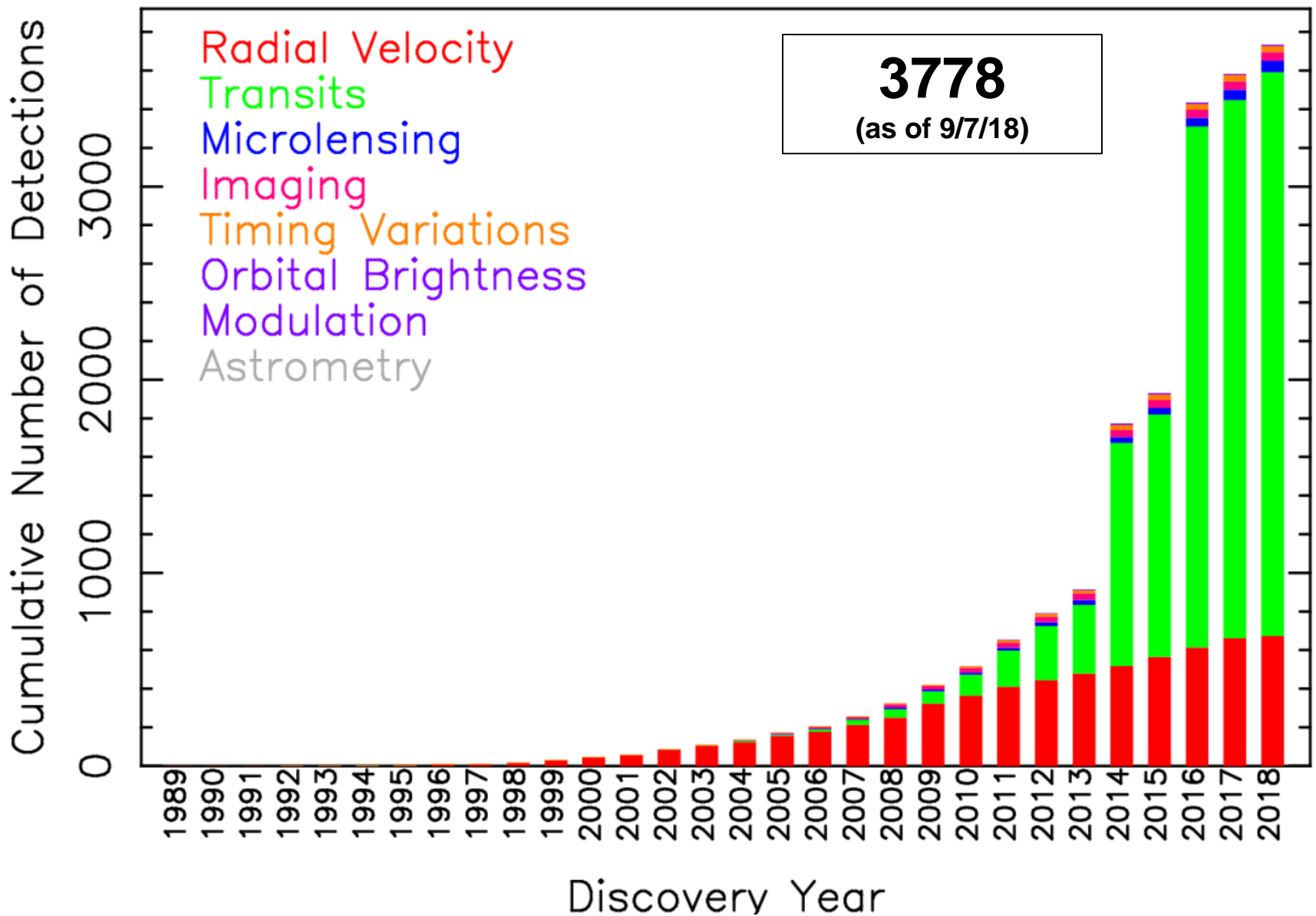


TABLE ES.4 Space: Recommended Activities—Medium-Scale (Priority Order)

Recommendation	Science	Appraisal of Costs <sup>a</sup>
1. New Worlds Technology Development Program	Preparation for a planet-imaging mission beyond 2020, including precursor science activities	\$100M to \$200M
2. Inflation Probe Technology Development Program	Cosmic microwave background (CMB)/inflation technology development and preparation for a possible mission beyond 2020	\$60M to \$200M

*“...high-priority science areas for which mid-term investments are needed beginning early in the decade, including development of a variety of technologies for exoplanet imaging, such as coronagraphs, interferometers, and starshades, leading to possible late-decade down-selecting.”*



# ***We now know that in our Galaxy...***

**Planets** are common  
( $> 1$  per star)

**Planets with sizes  
0.5-2 times Earth  
are the most common**

**Earth-size planets in the  
Habitable Zone are  
common**

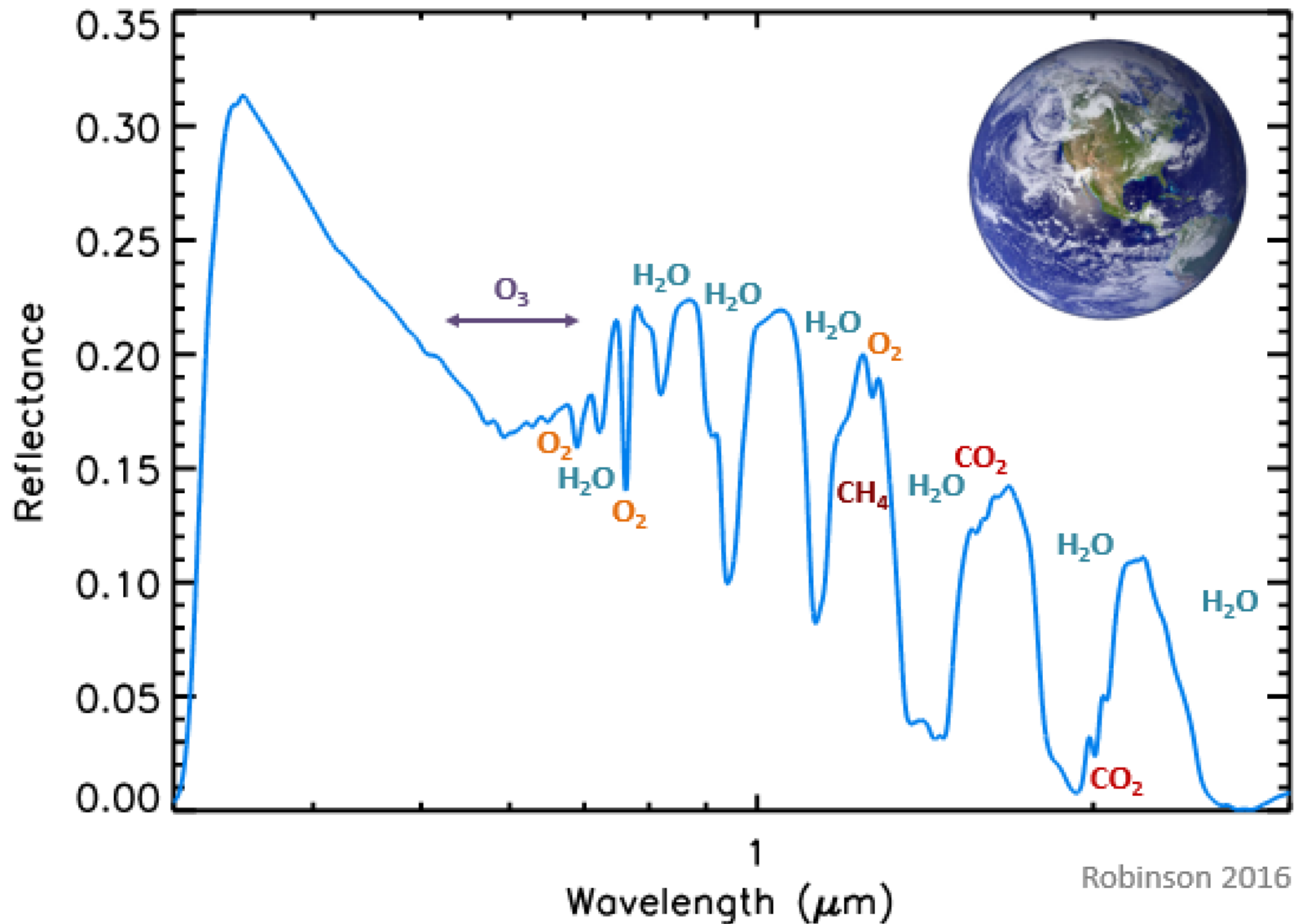
**...we're ready for the  
search for life**



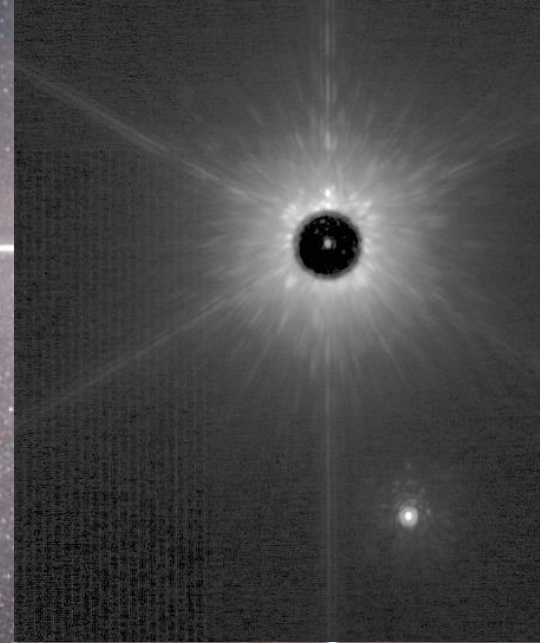
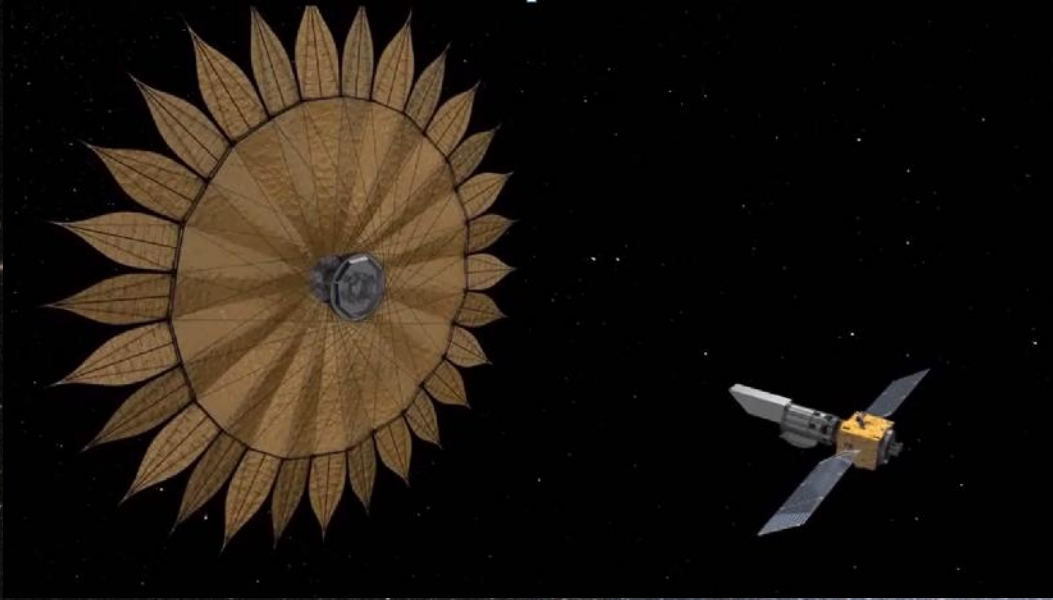


# Potential Biosignature Gases

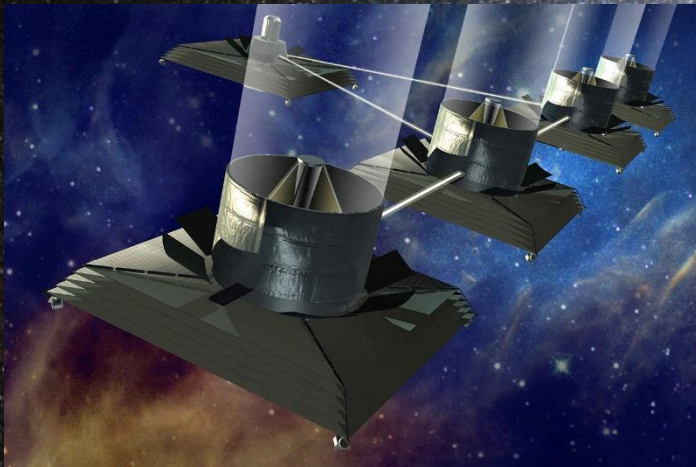
Spectral Lines



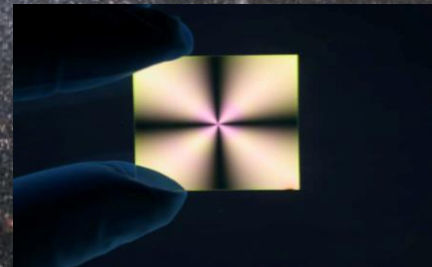
## External Occulters (Starshades)



## Nulling Interferometry



## Internal Occulters (Coronagraphs)



# NASA Response to Medium Scale Rec #1

Targeted technology grants

- **Continued use of competitively selected individual investigator awards issued under the **Astrophysics Research and Analysis (APRA)** and **Strategic Astrophysics Technology (SAT)** programs.**
  - APRA addresses early-TRL technologies (1-2)
  - SAT addresses mid-TRL technologies (3-5)
    - Within the SAT, **Technology Development for Exoplanet Missions (TDEM)** primarily focuses on exoplanet technologies.
- **About 40 awards since 2010 have advanced the technology readiness of starshades, coronagraphs, and their associated supporting technologies.**

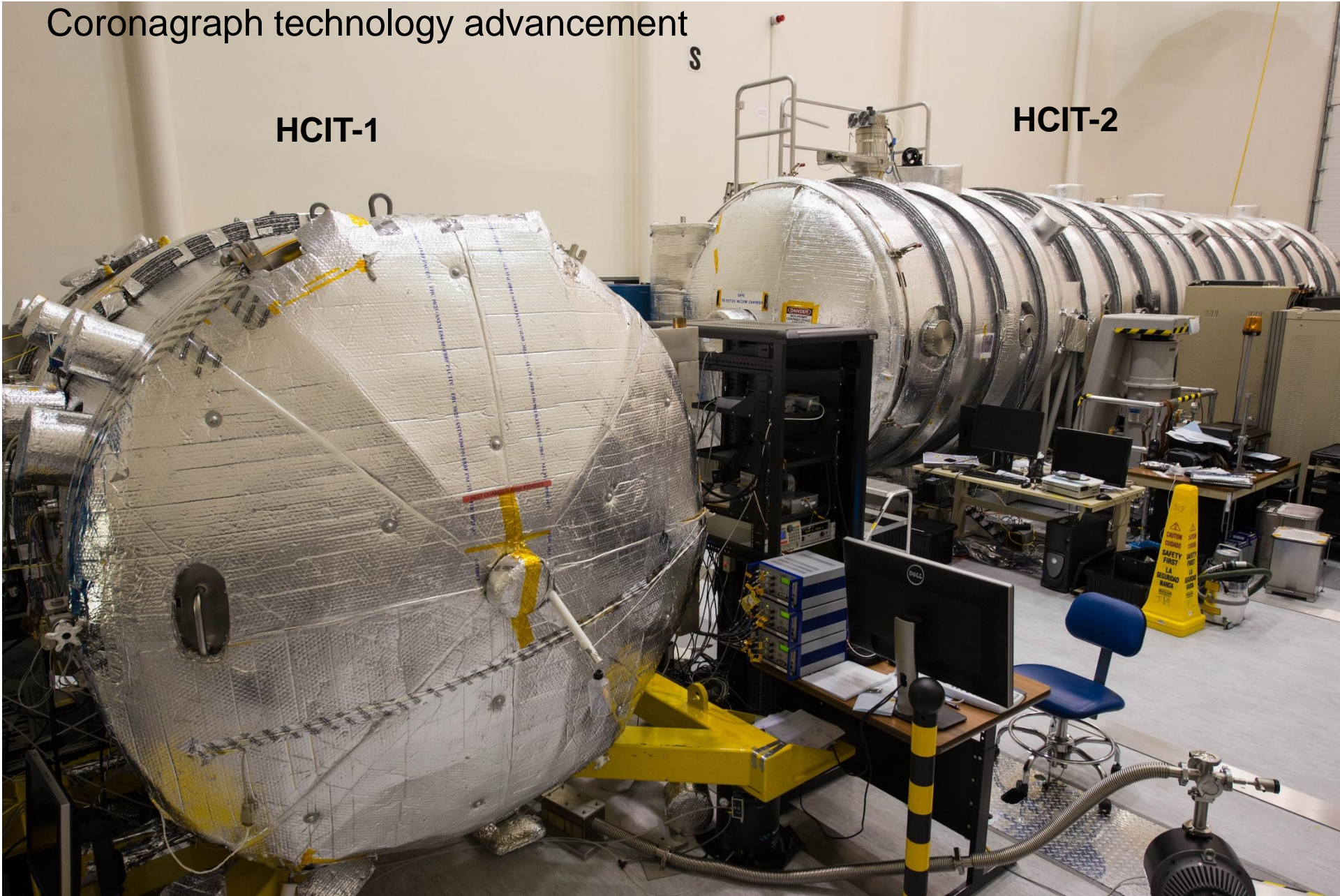


# High Contrast Imaging Testbed Facility (JPL)

Coronagraph technology advancement

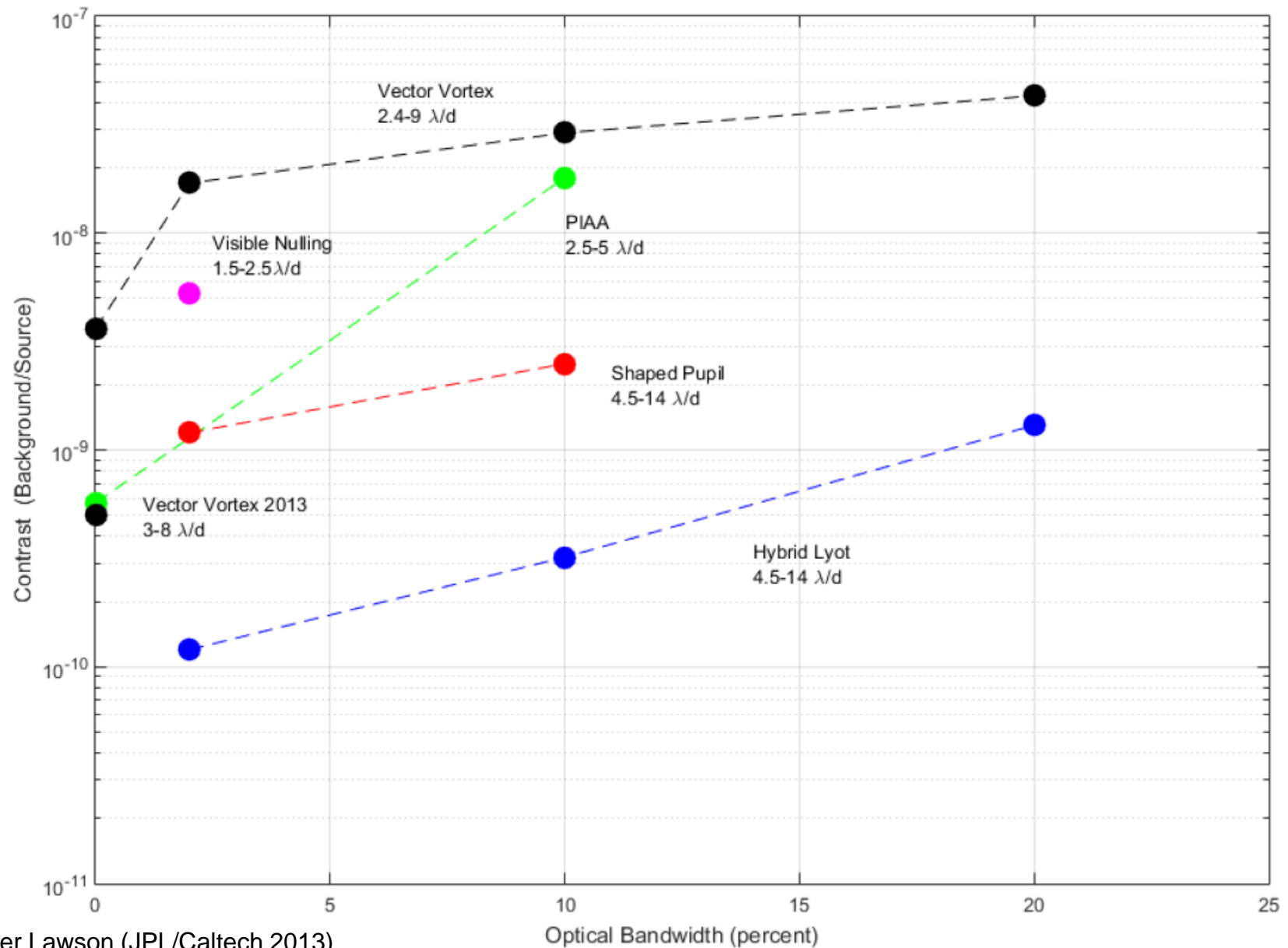
HCIT-1

HCIT-2



# Coronagraph Progress for Space

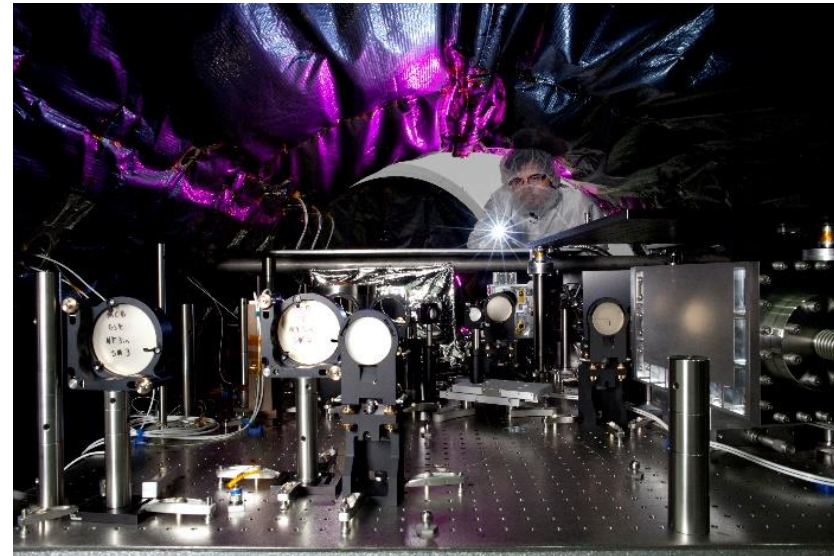
Contrast vs. Bandwidth





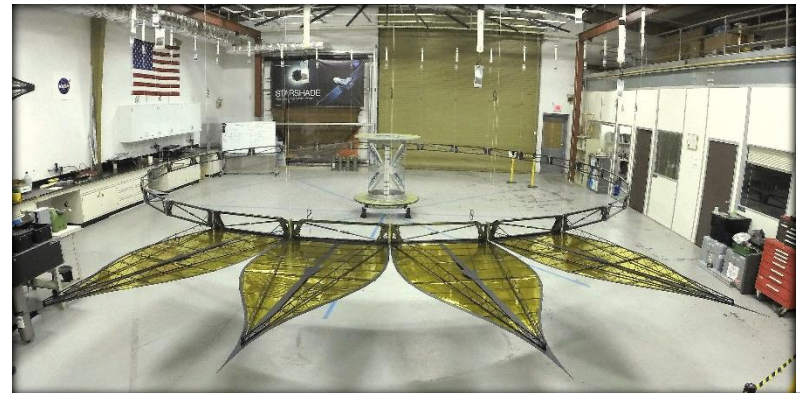
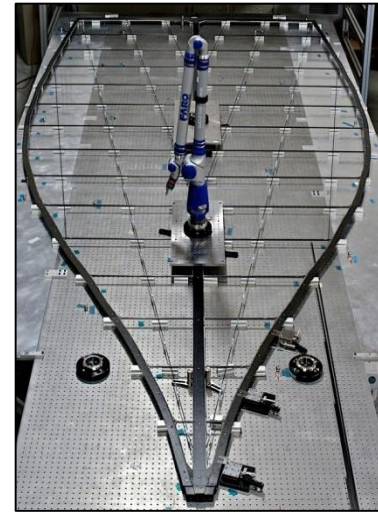
# Coronagraph Progress for Space

- In 2013, coronagraphy was “spun off” from the ExEP to the WFIRST project to support technology advancement for their coronagraph instrument.
- Achieved TRL 5 in 2017
- Advancing component technologies
  - Deformable mirrors
  - Ultrar-low noise detectors (EMCCDs)
  - Low-order wavefront sensors
  - Post-processing



# Starshade Progress

- **Starshade advanced through TDEM Program:**
  - petal manufacturing
  - optical demonstrations
  - inner disk deployment
- In 2016, the starshade was spun off to establish a **starshade technology development activity**.



# Petal Unfurler Testbed 2.0

JPL plus Tendeg Gravity Offloader





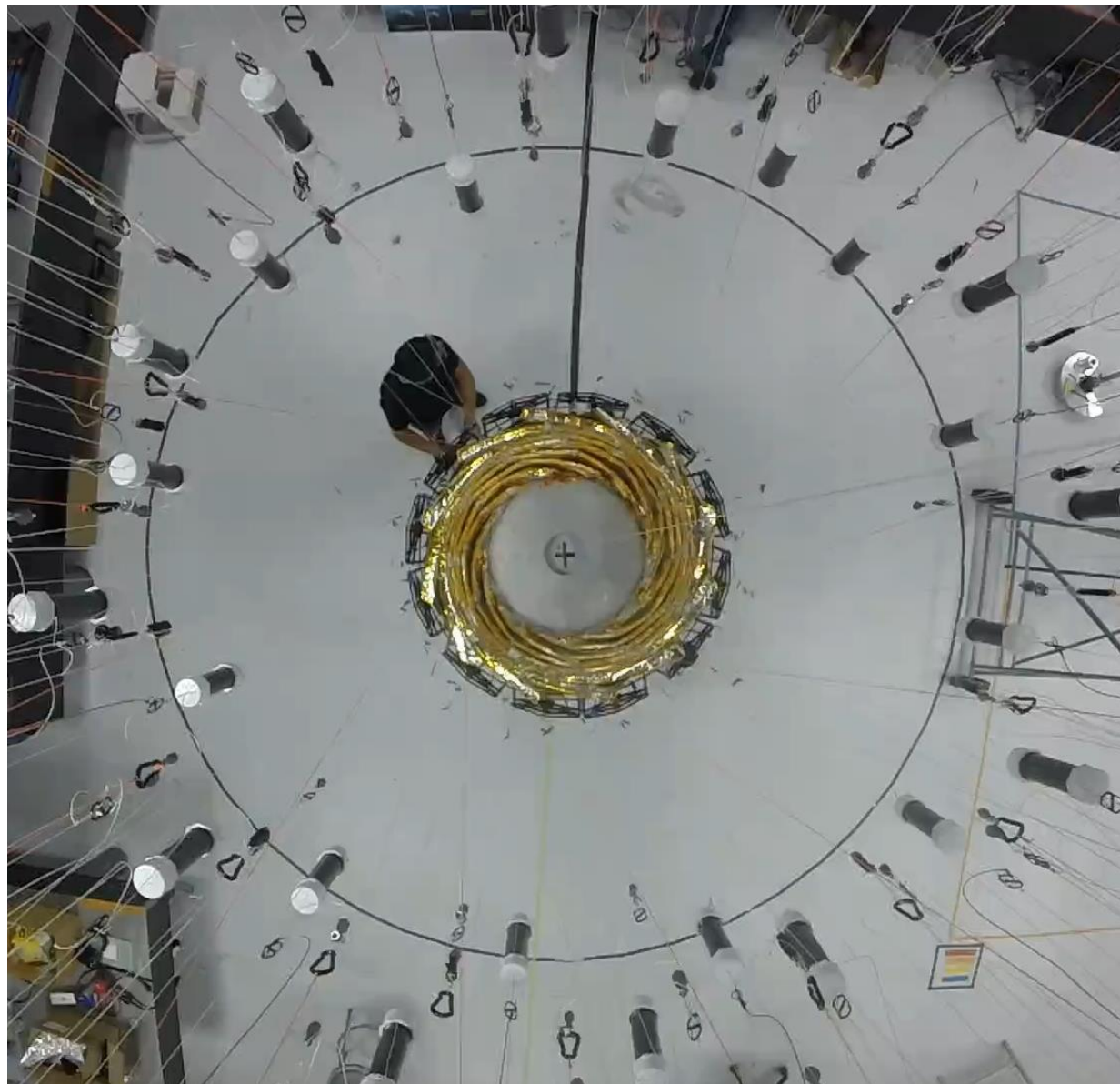
# Inner Disk Deployment

## 10 m Prototype Demonstration (JPL)



# Optical Shield Deployment

5 m Prototype Demonstration





# TECHNOLOGY

Angular Resolution: Interferometry

Angular Resolution and Collecting Area: Large Space Telescopes

Contrast Stability: Ultrastable Structures

Detection Sensitivity: Advanced Detectors

Starlight Suppression: Starshades

Starlight Suppression: Coronagraphs

# MISSIONS



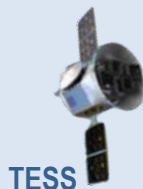
Hubble



Spitzer



Kepler



TESS



JWST



WFIRST



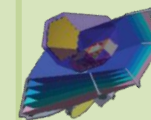
Starshade  
Rendezvous



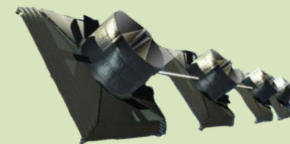
LUVOIR



HabEx



OST



Exo-Earth  
Interferometer

TODAY

2020s

2025s

2030s

2035 and beyond

# SCIENCE

Exoplanetary  
Atmospheres  
Hot Jupiters

Exoplanet  
Abundance

Nearest Transiting  
Planets

Atmospheric  
Chemistry

Direct Imaging  
Exozodiacal Dust  
Exoplanet Diversity

Habitable  
Exo-Earth  
Discovery

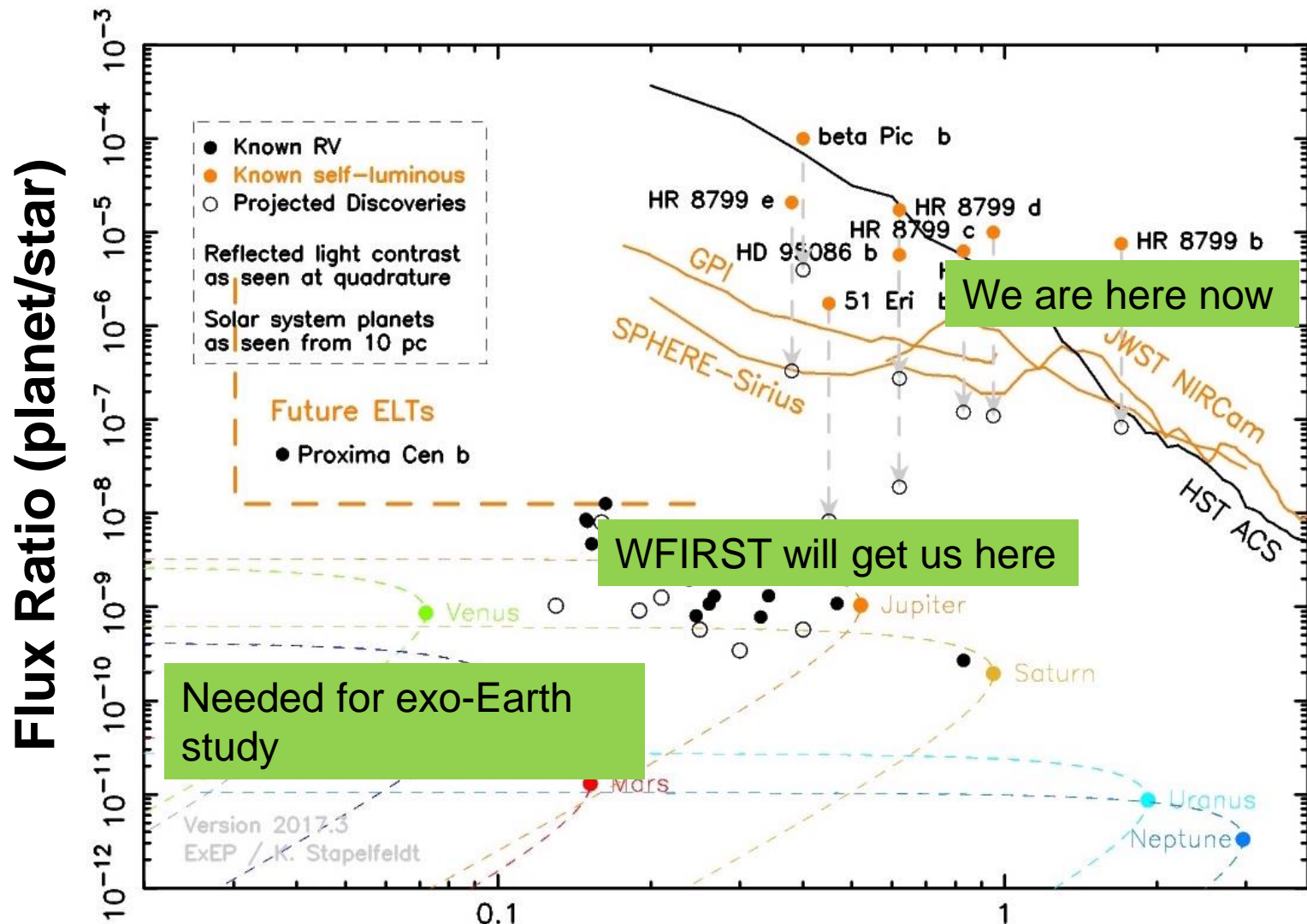
M-Dwarf Rocky Planet  
Biosignatures  
Cool Gas Giants

Exo-Earth  
Biosignatures  
Habitable  
Exo-Earth  
Abundance

Life  
Verification

Possible Pending Decadal Survey

# Still a Way to go to Directly Imaging Exo-Earths



Still a Way to go to Directly Imaging Exo-Earths

# Active TDEMS

- **Advancing Coronagraphy to  $< 10^{-9}$** 
  - Vortex (PI Gene Serabyn/JPL)
  - Hybrid Lyot (PI John Trauger/JPL)
  - PIAA (PI Rus Belikov/ARC)
  - APLC (PI Remi Soummer/STScI)
  - Multi-star wavefront control (PI Rus Belikov/ARC)
- **Understanding and Minimizing the Effects of Polarization**
  - Jim Breckinridge (Caltech) and UA team performing independent polarization ray-trace of the HabEx and LUVOIR optics
- **Advancing a Second  $10^{-10}$  Deformable Mirror**
  - MEMS 32x32 (PI Paul Bierden/Boston Micromachines)
  - MEMS 50x50 (SBIR)

# Segmented Mirror Technology Program

- Telescope apertures will continue to get larger and structural and wavefront error stability will be challenging when working with coronagraphs.
- Industry awards created to address system-level design and modeling challenges for achieving picometer-level wavefront error stability in a segmented UV/V/NIR space telescope.



Ultra-Stable Large Telescope  
Research and Analysis (ULTRA),  
PI **Scott Knight** (Ball Aerospace)



System-Level Segmented Telescope  
Design  
PI **Larry Dewell** (Lockheed Martin)

# Segmented Coronagraph Design and Analysis

- **Purpose:** Ensure there is at least one coronagraph architecture that can meet the contrast requirements of future large segmented space telescopes to directly image and characterize exo-Earths.
- **Promising designs delivered of the APLC (STScI/GSFC) and Vortex (Caltech/JPL) teams; HLC (JPL) catching up, PIAACMC (UA/Ames) and VNC GSFC) struggling to meet metrics.**
- **Lessons learned:**
  - Big dropoff in throughput seen when secondary obscuration exceeds 30% of the primary mirror diameter
  - Angular size of the star problematic for some coronagraphs
  - Segmentation gaps are not a major problem (if small)
  - Central obscuration biggest challenge
- **Next steps**
  - Test new apodization masks in testbeds (not yet vacuum)
  - Test the robustness of the designs to wavefront errors and tolerancing: Do these coronagraphs put constraints on the telescopes that are unrealistic?



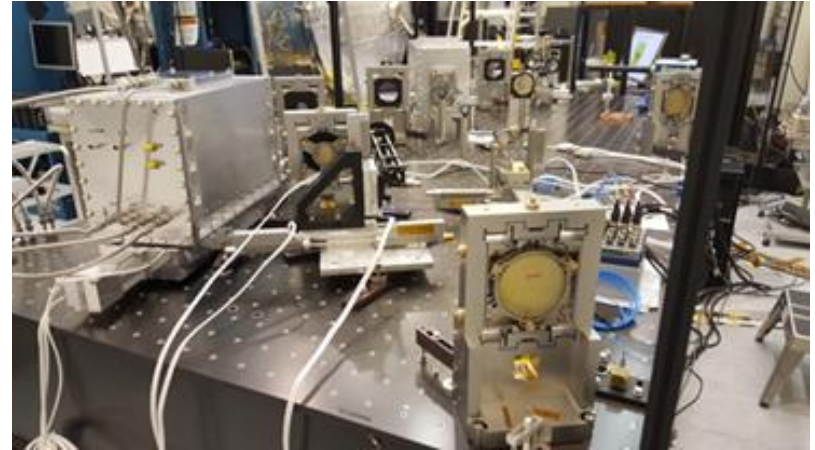


# Decadal Survey Testbed

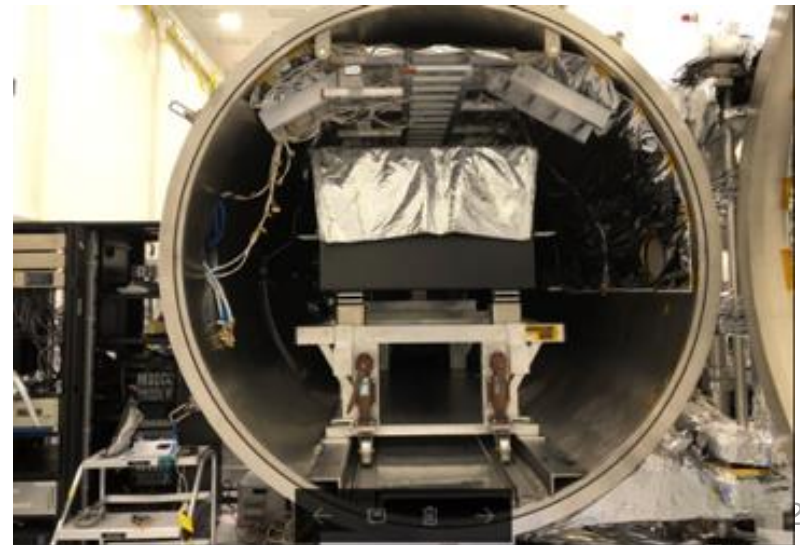
Advancing the next generation of coronagraphs

- **Purpose:**
  - Develop a testbed that is sufficiently low noise to demonstrate next-generation coronagraphs reach  $10^{-10}$  contrast
  - To be made available to community
- **Currently Commissioning with a clear aperture plus Hybrid Lyot**
  - **Plan is to reach a new contrast record by the end of this CY ( $\leq 10^{-10}$ )**
- **In CY19, add a segmented/obscured mask to simulate the segmentation pattern of a large space telescope mirror**

**Assembled optical bench**

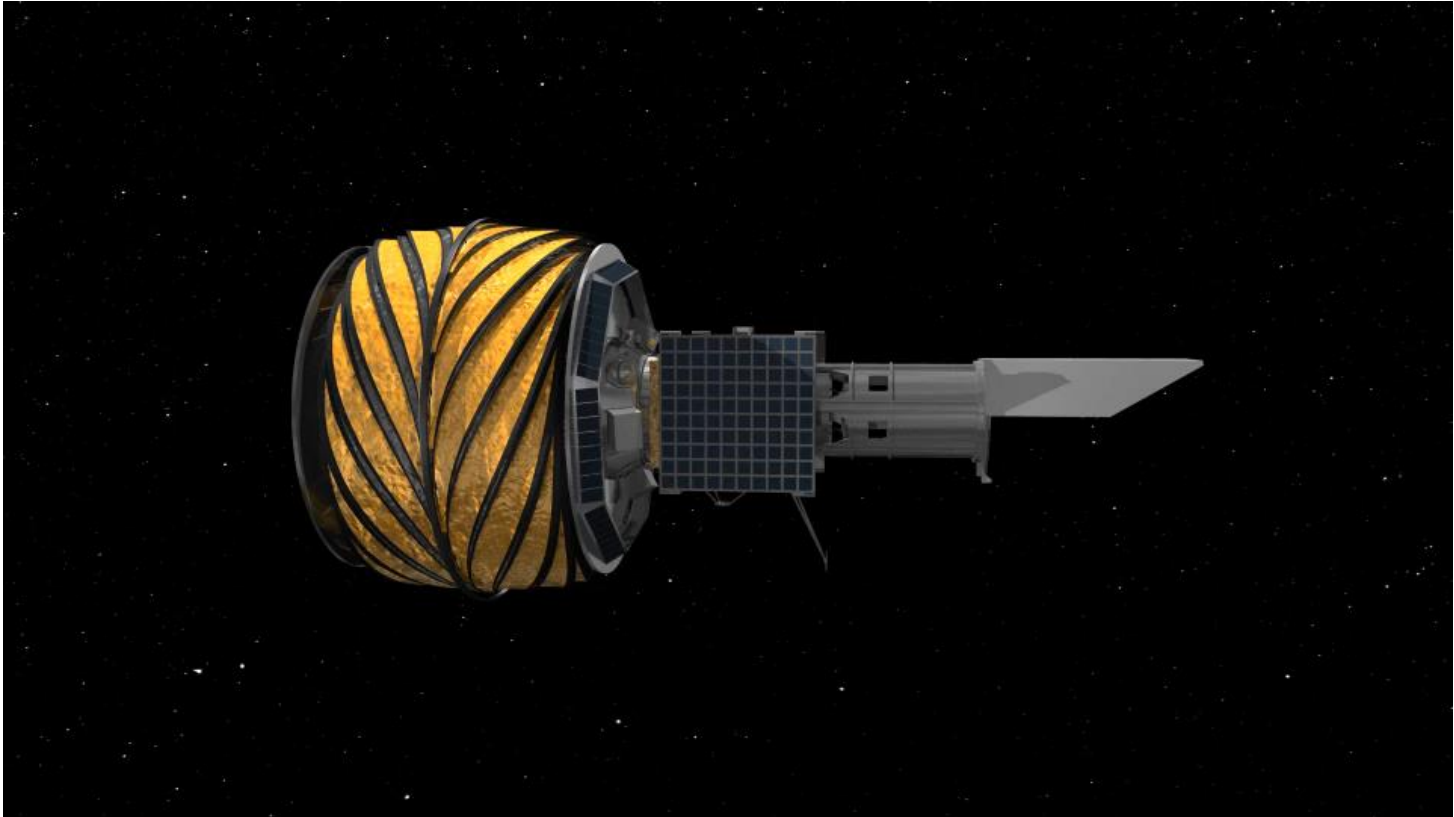


**Installed in the chamber: June 2018**



# Starshade Deployment Trade Study Completed

Wrapped petal architecture selected



- **Technology Development Plan advanced to bring the starshade to TRL 5 by early 2020s.**
  - ❖ Review of milestones by ExoTAC in August
  - ❖ Delivery of Plan for NASA HQ approval in September

# Inputs to National Academies Exoplanet and Astrobiology Strategy Committees

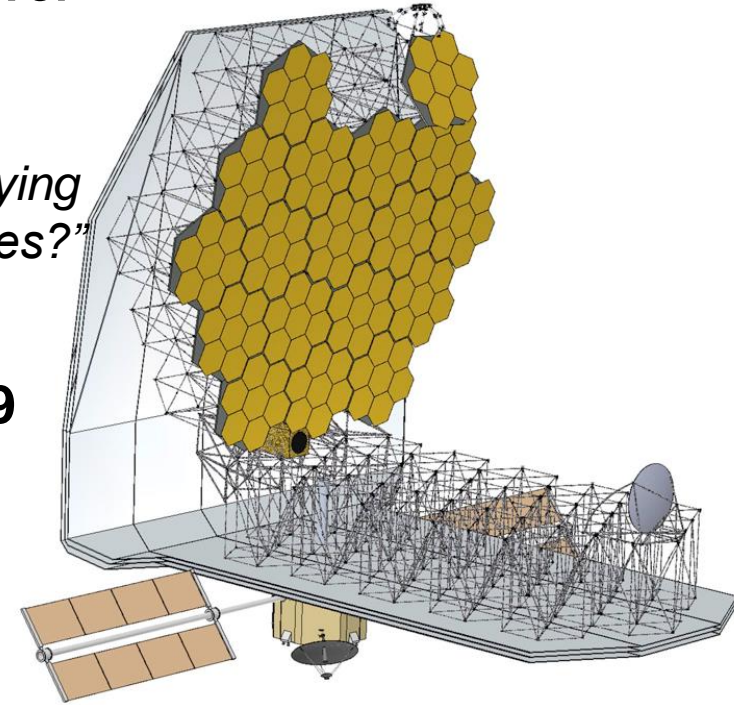
- Whitepaper submitted to the Astrobiology Science Strategy: Siegler et al. *Technology Needs for Detecting Life Beyond the Solar System: A White Paper in Support of the Astrobiology Science Strategy* [arXiv:1801.07811](https://arxiv.org/abs/1801.07811)
- Whitepaper submitted to the National Academies Exoplanet Science Strategy: Crill et al. *Key Technology Challenges for the Study of Exoplanets and the Search for Habitable Worlds* [arXiv:1803.04457](https://arxiv.org/abs/1803.04457)
- Briefed the NAS Exoplanet Science Strategy committee at their Irvine meeting on April 20, 2018 on “Exoplanet Technology Gaps” [https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/internal\\_resources/893/](https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/internal_resources/893/)

# in-Space Assembled Telescope (iSAT) Study

- Chartered by NASA SMD and APD to answer the question:

*When is it worth assembling telescopes in space rather than building them on the Earth and deploying them autonomously from individual launch vehicles?"*

- Final deliverable is a White Paper to the Decadal Survey Committee in Spring 2019
- Activity 1a: Modularizing a 20 m space telescope**
  - Workshop held at Caltech June 5-7
- Activity 1b: Assembling and testing the 20 m modularized telescope in space**
  - Robotics, orbit, launch vehicle, assembly platform
  - Workshop scheduled for October 2-4 at LaRC

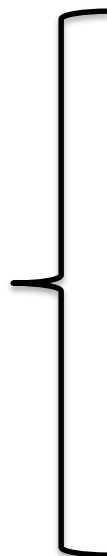


# 2018 ExEP Prioritized Technology List



Exoplanet Exploration Program

**Coronagraphs  
and  
Starshades**



Tech. ID	Technology Title	Impact	Urgency	Trend	2018 Score	2017 Score
	weight:	10	10	5		
CG-2	Coronagraph Architecture	4	4	2	90	85
S-2	Starlight Suppression and Model Validation	4	4	2	90	90
S-1	Controlling Scattered Sunlight	4	4	2	90	90
S-3	Lateral Formation Sensing	4	4	2	90	90
S-5	Petal Positioning Accuracy and Opaque Structure	4	4	2	90	90
S-4	Petal Shape and Stability	4	4	2	90	90
CG-3	Deformable Mirrors	4	4	2	90	80
CG-1	Large Aperture Primary Mirrors	4	3	3	85	85
CG-6	Mirror Segment Phasing	4	3	3	85	85
CG-7	Telescope Vibration Sense/Control or Reduction	4	3	3	85	85
CG-9	Ultra-Low Noise Near-Infrared Detectors	4	3	3	85	85
CG-5	Wavefront Sensing and Control	4	3	2	80	80
CG-8	Ultra-Low Noise Visible Detectors	4	3	2	80	80
M-4	Ultra-Stable Mid-IR detector	3	3	4	80	
M-3	Astrometry	3	3	3	75	
CG-4	Data Post-Processing Algorithms and Techniques	4	2	2	70	70
CG-10	Mirror Coatings for UV/NIR/Vis	3	3	2	70	70
M-2	Space-based Laser Frequency Combs	3	3	2	70	
CG-13	Ultra Low-noise Mid-IR detectors	2	3	4	70	
M-1	Extreme Precision Ground-based Radial Velocity	2	3	3	65	75
CG-14	Mid-IR Large Aperture Telescopes	2	3	3	65	
CG-15	Mid-IR Coronagraph Optics and Architecture	2	3	3	65	
CG-16	Cryogenic Deformable mirror	2	3	3	65	
CG-12	Ultra-Low Noise UV Detectors	2	3	2	60	60

**Mass measurement  
to be advanced?**



**Mid-IR interferometry  
technology next  
decade?**

